Docket No. <u>1232-4684</u>

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Sadahiko YAMAOKA, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3625

Serial No.:

09/781,889

Examiner:

R. Pond

Filed:

February 12, 2001

For:

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ABOUT PROCUREMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the Final Office Action mailed on November 7, 2005, prior to review on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows. A Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for two-month extension of time are being filed concurrently herewith.

The listing of claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.